

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 27190

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUB: STATEMENT ON INAUGURATION OF LEBANESE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 226267, (TOSEC 270022),

STATE 228367 (TOSEC 270158),

DAMASCUS 6286, (TOSEC 270292),

1. SECRETARY HAS APPROVED TEXT BELOW OF STATEMENT TO BE
ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT AFTER INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS
SUBJECT TO YOUR LAST-MINUTE REVIEW IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES
EXISTING AT THE TIME.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

THE UNITED STATES IS CONVINCED THAT THE OCCASION OF THE
INSTALLATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT OF LEBANON OFFERS AN
OPPORTUNITY WHICH MUST NOT BE LOST TO BRING AN END TO THE
FIGHTING AND TO BEGIN REBUILDING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. IT WILL
BE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN
THE AUTHORITY OF LEBANON'S NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED BY
LEGITIMATE PROCESSES SO THAT ALL LEBANESE MAY PROMPTLY
BEGIN THEIR RETURN TO PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

THE VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION IN LEBANON HAVE GONE
ON FAR TOO LONG. THE COSTS IN HUMAN SUFFERING HAVE
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BEEN FAR TOO HIGH. IT IS CLEAR THAT NO ONE CAN GAIN FROM

CONTINUED FIGHTING: COUNTLESS MORE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN WILL LOSE LIVES, PROPERTY, AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS A TIME FOR MAGNANIMITY, RESTRAINT, AND COMPROMISE.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND THAT WILL PRESERVE THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY. SOLUTIONS BASED ON THE PARTITION OF LEBANON ARE INVITATIONS TO FURTHER STRIFE AND INSTABILITY. THE STATES SO CREATED WOULD NOT BE VIABLE AND WOULD INVITE EXTERNAL INTERVENTION.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION AMONG THE LEBANESE PARTIES ENUNCIATED LAST JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROVIDE A BASIS FOR INSTITUTIONS THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF LEBANESE PEOPLE AND NATION. WE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS WILL BE ABLE TO BRING HIS COUNTRYMEN TO THE ROUNDTABLE TALKS HE HAS PROPOSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION AND REBUILDING CAN BEGIN.

THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN NEGOTIATING A SOLUTION WILL BE TO PRESERVE A UNITED COUNTRY, LED BY A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL ASSURE SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY. THE PRINCIPLES PROPOSED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WERE DESIGNED TO GIVE PRACTICAL POLITICAL EXPRESSION TO THE CONCEPT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS IN A REUNITED LEBANON. IN OUR VIEW, THIS CALLS FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS THAT ALL LEBANESE WILL PERCEIVE AS FAIR AND EQUITABLE. IT PRESUPPOSES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL SECURITY FORCES LOYAL TO IT WHICH CAN RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE AUTHORITY AND ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN DOMESTIC ORDER. AND IT WILL REQUIRE THAT THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEIR LEBANESE HOSTS AND NEIGHBORS, WITHOUT CHALLENGING THE AUTHORITY OF A CENTRAL LEBANESE ADMINISTRATION OR SEEKING TO FORM A STATE WITHIN A STATE.

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THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AREA AND THE ARAB LEAGUE ARE IN A POSITION, EACH IN ITS OWN WAY, TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. CONTINUATION OF THE FIGHTING CANNOT SERVE THEIR INTERESTS. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY WILL BE IN JEOPARDY AS LONG AS THE FIGHTING CONTINUES. AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN TURN WOULD CREATE CONDITIONS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO A RESUMPTION OF THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED

SETTLEMENT OF THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS OF THE STATES OF THE AREA FOR THEIR SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AS WELL AS THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP TO BRING AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SOLUTION. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES LIE IN ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING, IN THE RESTORATION OF UNITY AND STABILITY BASED ON JUSTICE IN LEBANON, AND IN THE REDUCTION OF TENSION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OR UNDERTAKE ANY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE REQUESTED BY THE PARTIES.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS WHICH ALREADY AMOUNT TO MORE THAN \$10 MILLION IN HOSPITAL AND OTHER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND FOODSTUFFS DISTRIBUTED AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINES. WE WILL DO THIS AND MORE AS NECESSARY. WE ARE CONSIDERING WAYS OF SHIPPING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WHEAT UNDER PL 480.

WE WILL ALSO PLAY OUR PART, AFTER A SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED, IN HELPING PRESIDENT SARKIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT REBUILD LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS AND THE LEBANESE ECONOMY. WE HAVE INVITED HIM TO SEND A PERSONAL ENVOY TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS HE CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE HELPFUL. WE HAVE SOUGHT FROM THE CONGRESS AN APPROPRIATION OF \$20 MILLION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS. THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO HELP EQUIP A LEBANESE
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NATIONAL MILITARY FORCE AFTER THE CONFLICT IS CONCLUDED.

THIS IS A TIME OF OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE FOR A SUFFERING PEOPLE IN AN AREA ALREADY TOO LONG DEVASTATED BY WAR. THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE CONVICTION THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY MUST NOT BE LOST. END TEXT.

3. PLEASE CHECK AID FIGURES IN ABOVE TO ASSURE THEIR USE REFLECTS LATEST CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

4. SECRETARY ON SEPTEMBER 13 JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE APPROVED TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT SARKIS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THIS, PLEASE CHECK WITH SECRETARY'S OFFICE THERE. KISSINGER

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